

# Systems Thinking

## *A methodology for understanding complex systems*

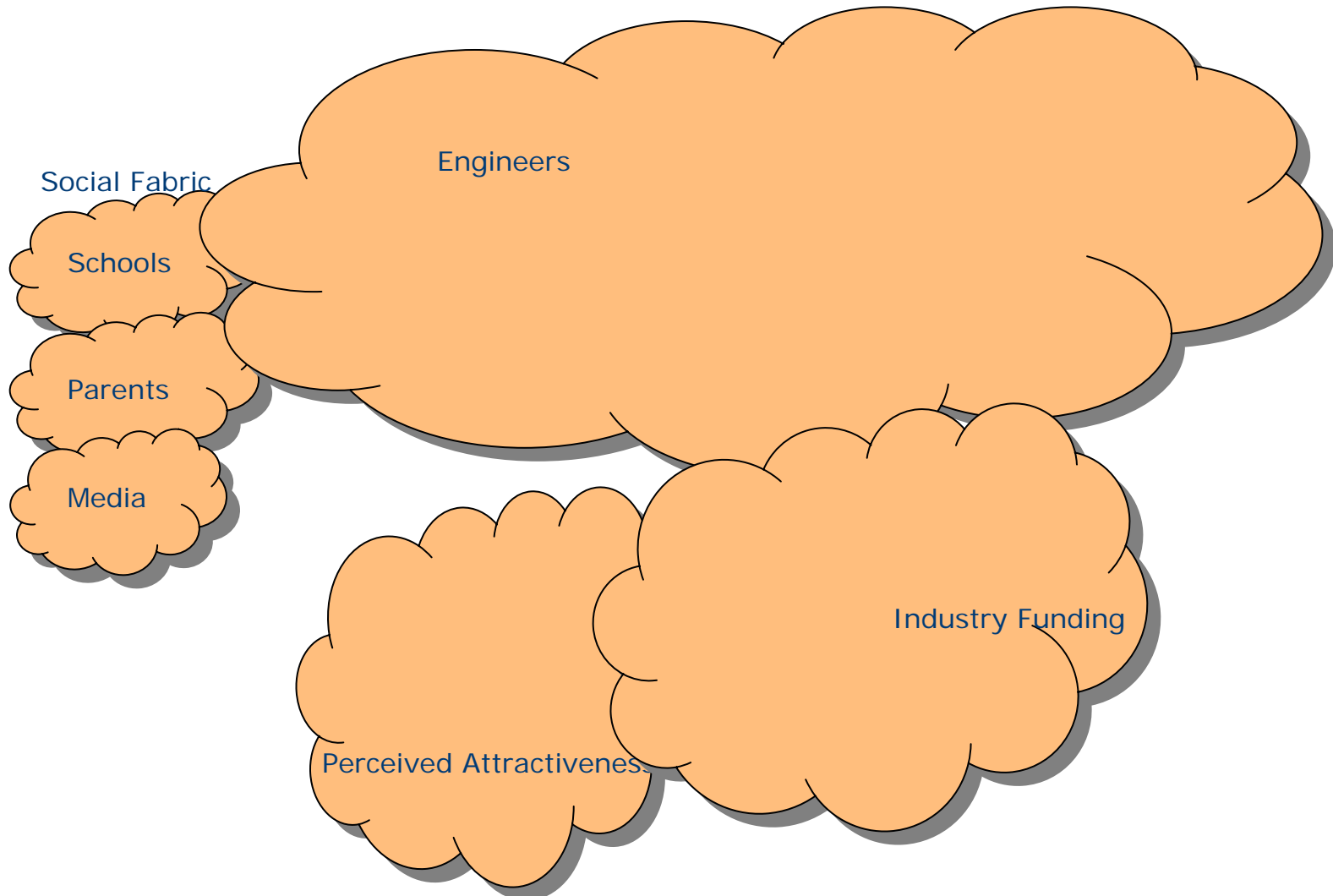
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*Here's the challenge!*

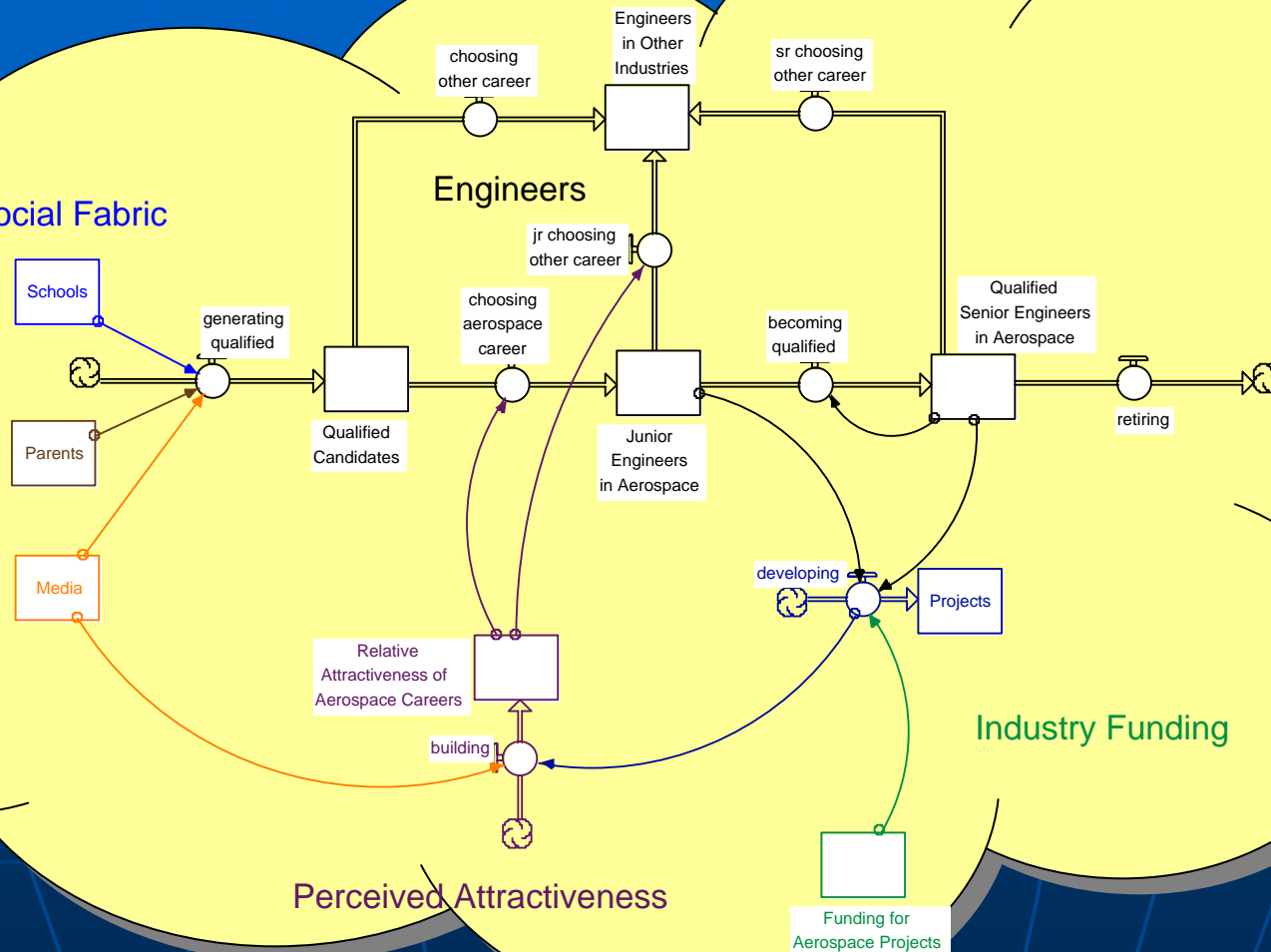
The problem spans many diverse segments of society



## Addressing the Challenge

The stock & flow mapping language is an ideal way to map the complex relationships

### Social Fabric

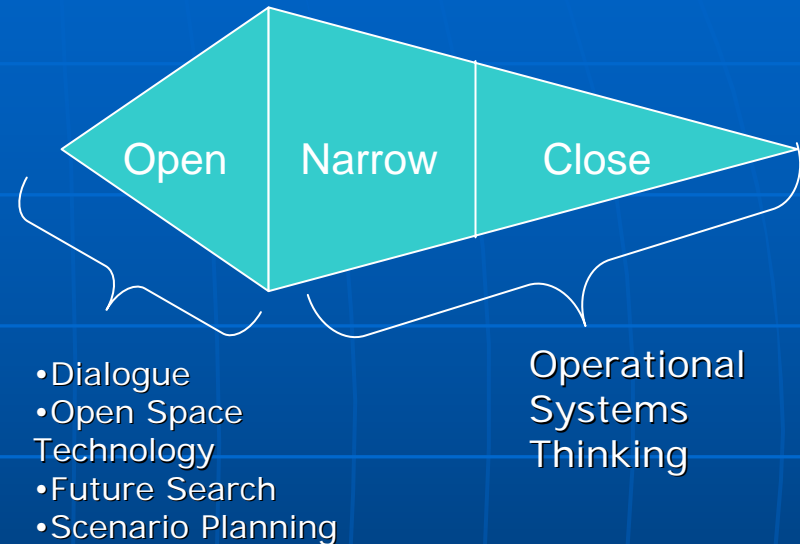


*This map can be translated into a computer simulation model for policy testing!.*

# Systems Thinking employs a process to develop a *collective* mental model that's *useful*!

*To generate a collective mental model requires...*

- Stakeholder Involvement
- A Divergent/Convergent Process
- A Common Language (Visual!)
- A process based on The Scientific Method
- An ability to rigorously test disagreements—technology is invaluable!!!



Systems Thinking employs a process to develop a *collective* mental model that's *useful*!

*To be a useful the mental model must capture the "essence" of reality including...*

- Broad spatial & temporal boundaries
- Conditions & Actions (Stocks & Flows)
- Time delays
- Interdependencies within/across system "sectors"
- Feedback loops

# Addressing the Challenge

## Conclusion

